

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4,
insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 12,
insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1,
insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10,
insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Making reference to the figures, it can be observed the main body of the drying - compacting apparatus of the invention comprising a cylindrical body 1, made up of an assembly of tubes 2 coursed by a thermal carrier fluid, said tubes 2 being positioned according to the generatrices of the cylinder. Thus, within the tubes 2 a cylindrical space is realised, said space being divided into four equivalent sections by further tubes, coursed by the thermal carrier fluid, said further tubes being arranged according to a cross position. Wastes to be compacted and dried are discharged from above into the apparatus, within a

loading chamber [[12,]] close to one of the basis of the cylindrical body, by a hopper 3. By the heat exchanged among the tubes, apparatus warms the discharged wastes, acting as an oven.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Loading of the apparatus, during the start of the operation, provides heating the oven making the thermal carrier fluid flowing at the design temperature within the tubes, thus having a three step cyclic run, the first one of which resides in withdrawing the pressure plates 6 up to the relevant death ends, in such a way not to prevent the insertion of the material to be subjected to treatment. Second step involves the introduction of the wastes let falling down, in a reduced amount with respect to the capability of the same apparatus, from hopper 3 into the loading chamber [[12]]. Thus the hopper throat is closed and the pressure plates 6 push the material within the cylindrical body 1 from both sides, pressing and pushing it within the drying - compacting apparatus according to the direction of the side opposite with respect to the inlet one.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--During the introduction step, material to be subjected to the treatment is let falling from the hopper 3 within the loading chamber [[12]], while the pressure plates 6

are in correspondence of the relevant lower death points. Thus, the charge, herein described as reference, is pressed by the pressure plates 6, inlet side, within the cylindrical body 1 of the apparatus, against the part of material previously introduced, that is then pressed by the relevant pressure plates on the exit side.--